

in the island, charge enormous premiums on account of this extra-hazardous complication. But since Colonel Gorgas rid Cuba of the pest, some of the smaller companies have been turning longing eyes upon this territory. Obviously, for the smaller companies to recognize the cessation of the extra risk and write insurance at normal rates, would be to force the other companies to do the same thing and thus cut down some of their iniquitous profits. Hence the "Commission" of the *Herald* finds conditions bad; very bad. Is the gentle hand of Mr. Lawson's "System" discernable in this wonderful "commission" and its biased findings?

The JOURNAL for July of last year commented upon the disgraceful character of the "Hall of Exhibits," the side-show of the American Medical Association. A member of the Publication Committee was taken to task for this editorial utterance, the argument being that the Trustees of the A. M. A. have nothing to do with this "hall"; that it is always arranged for by the local committee of arrangements; that this committee must provide (and pay for) the various meeting places required, and that consequently the "hall of (disgraceful) exhibits" has to be. That a large percentage of the remedies exhibited are "nostrums" (secret formula "proprietary" preparations), is not denied; that to "promote the use" of such stuff is "derogatory to professional character," is also not denied. In short, it is not denied that the "Hall of Exhibits" has been for years a disgrace to an association which promulgates a "Principles of Ethics"; but, it is denied that the Association, or the Trustees, have any responsibility in the matter! For several years the Trustees have had the Constitution and By-Laws framed just about as they wanted them, and modified from year to year just about as the "committee on constitution" thought they ought to be modified. It does not seem exactly the proper thing, therefore, for the Trustees to hide behind a by-law that is of their own endorsement if not of their own enacting (for many strange and curious—shall we say accidents?—have happened and are happening to the organic law of the Association) and say they have no responsibility. The Association is making a net profit of some \$40,000.00 annually, yet it cannot afford to shoulder the expenses of its own meetings, but must needs shove them off upon a local committee, and allow the local committee to prostitute the Association for money. Dr. J. N. McCormack, the organizer of the A. M. A., says, in connection with some remarks upon state society meetings:*

No exhibit should ever be permitted about the hall or its approaches, and the contracts should always require that they be closed during the hours of meeting. Nothing unethical should even be considered for the exhibit rooms, and probably nothing should be admitted which is not advertised in the state journal, where one is maintained.

* *Journal A. M. A.*, March 25, 1905, page 980.

If this is such good, sound advice for state societies, will some one tell us why it does not apply to the aggregate of these state bodies, the A. M. A.? But of course, if the things advertised in the *Journal A. M. A.* were to be admitted, Dr. McCormack's plea for decency would be of no avail.

These words of commendation for the newly acquired courage of the *Journal A. M. A.* are inspired by an article which appeared in a recent issue, and which we take the liberty of reprinting on page 157. We bespeak your careful consideration of this letter from the owner of the *New York Medical Journal* and the comment thereon by the *Journal A. M. A.* The *New York Medical Journal* has made claim to professional support and patronage on the score of its long service, the high grade of its editorial utterances and the wealth of scientific papers which it has printed. Quite recently, about the first of the year, it ventured to make claim to your support for these reasons and also on the ground that it published only "ethical advertising!" Its advertising pages are notoriously an abomination of desolations, and even its editorial pages have been bartered for coin. The letter from the owner and publisher to advertisers of nostrums, reproduced by the *Journal A. M. A.* in fac-simile and reprinted on page 157 of this JOURNAL, shows the management of the *New York Medical Journal* stripped of the mockery of disguise. No consideration of professional ethics is to limit its greed; no scruples shall deter it from doing its worst to undermine what is best in medicine; no thought for the desires or the wishes of decent and upright medical men shall weigh against the process of coining professional honesty and respectability into dirty, filthy, quackery-stamped dollars. And this is the "medical journal," gentlemen, which you are asked to support! Are the professional men of this country to continue forever to contribute to the support of a man who will openly and avowedly express himself as opposed to all that is for decency in materia medica? Are we going to complacently bear with this sort of insulting avarice? Are reputable medical men to be forever the stool pigeons of the conscienceless publisher of this stripe? Is it not time, gentlemen of the medical profession, that we took thought to ourselves and for our patients and came to a realization of the tremendous harm we are doing our profession and our patients by aiding in the perpetuation of this outrageous prostitution?

Dr. Reed's observations anent things pertaining to the sanitary condition in the Canal Zone, seem to have stirred up considerable discussion. Dr. Reed is chairman of the **THE CANAL SANITATION.** the Legislative Committee of the American Medical Association; he was sent to the Canal Zone as one of a commission of three, to appraise some real estate. While on the ground, he took advantage of his opportunity